

MEETING #23 – May 7

At a Special Meeting of the Madison County Board of Supervisors on May 7, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at the Madison County Administrative Center Auditorium located at 414 N. Main Street:

PRESENT: R. Clay Jackson, Chair
 Amber Foster, Vice-Chair
 Kevin McGhee, Member
 Charlotte Hoffman, Member
 Jack Hobbs, County Administrator
 Mary Jane Costello, Director of Finance/Assistant County Administrator

ABSENT: Jonathan Weakley, Member

1. Call to Order, *Pledge of Allegiance & Moment of Silence*

2. Determine Presence of a Quorum/Adopt Agenda

Chairman Jackson advised that a quorum was present.

Chairman Jackson suggested that the case for the Fellowship Baptist Church be moved to the front of the Agenda.

Supervisor Foster moved that today's Agenda be adopted as amended, seconded by Supervisor McGhee. *Aye: Jackson, Foster, McGhee, Hoffman. Nay: (0). Absent: Weakley.*

3. Public Comment

Chairman Jackson opened the floor for general public comment. The following individual(s) provided comment(s):

- Clarissa Berry: Comments pertained to improvements being made in the basement of her office building; advised that regularly scheduled actions will commence shortly.
- Nick McDowell: Proved accolades to the Board of Supervisors for allowing the EMS Department to move into their new office space.

With no further comments being brought forth, the public comment opportunity was closed.

4. Fellowship Baptist Church Site Plan

40-60D: Request by Trustees of Fellowship Baptist Church for a site plan to construct a meeting hall building. This property is located at 725 Gate Road (Route 680) near Madison and contains 4.804 acres of land, zoned A-1. b. Case No. SP-05-19-04(TM#40-60D). Approval was recommended by the Planning Commission on May 1, 2019. Action by the Board of Supervisors was delayed pending confirmation that the site plan is satisfactory to VDOT. A letter articulating that is contained in the agenda packet.

Supervisor Hoffman moved that the Board approve the site plan for the Trustees of Fellowship Baptist Church for its meeting hall at 725 Gate Road (Route 680) as recommended by the Madison County Planning Commission on May 1'2019, seconded by Supervisor Foster. *Aye: Jackson, Foster, McGhee, Hoffman. Nay: (0). Absent: Weakley.*

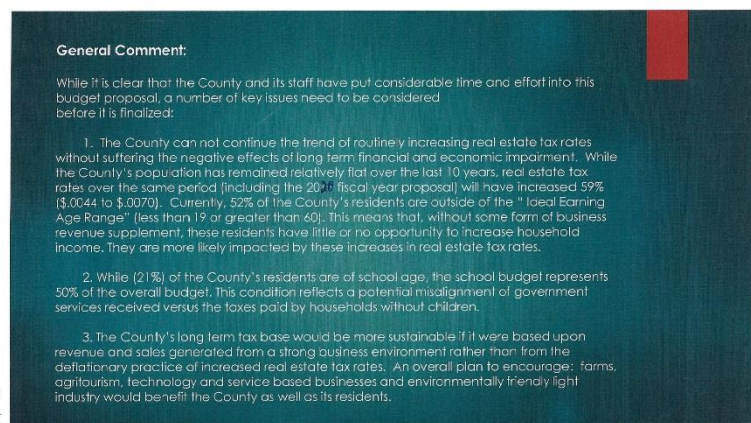
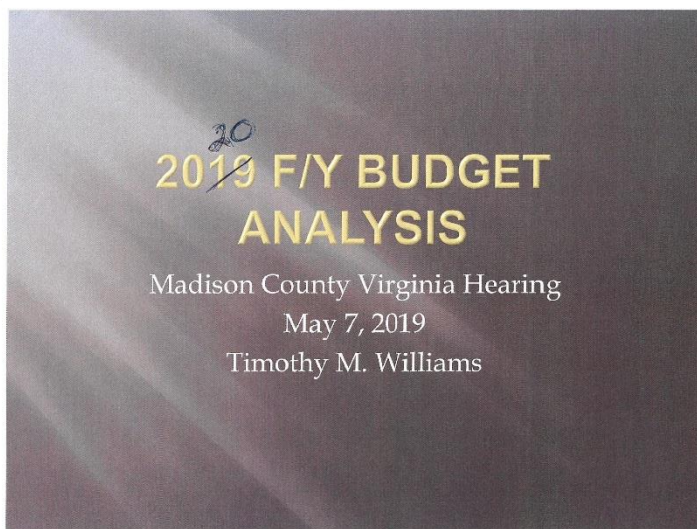
5. FY20 Budget

a. Presentation: FY20 Budget: The County Administrator provided a summary of the proposed FY20 budget and necessary steps to complete the overall budgetary process.

b. Public Hearing: FY20 Real Estate Tax Rate

Chairman Jackson opened the floor of the public hearing on the FY20 real estate tax rate. The following individuals provided comments:

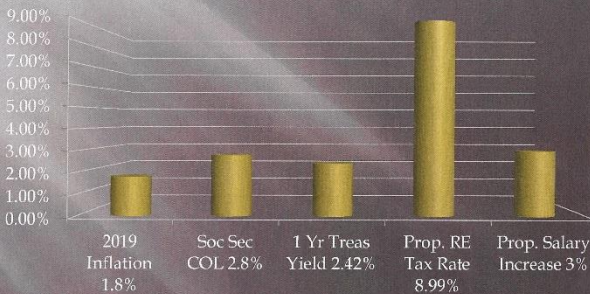
- Joe May: Advised of dissatisfaction that the value of his personal property has increased by 22.5% which will mean a greater tax bill; referred to statements made by the County Administrator that 'it's only the beginning' with regard to the proposed tax increase; questioned what else the residents can look forward to besides 'the beauty of the county'; feels that state and federal government doesn't make allowances for the population and/or financial strength of the local residents.
- Jim Smith: Referred to the 'illegal junkyard/chop shop' located across from his property in Brightwood that is being moved, and the fact that the reassessment of his personal property values increased by 24%; feels that most property owners here realize their homes are the greatest asset for the County's tax base here; feels that 'good and bad things' come from the local governing body; feels that the proposed FY20 budget is grossly inadequate with respect to transparency; noted that the school system is the largest piece of the proposed FY20 budget, yet there is no determination of how funding is being spent by the school system; referred to local demographics (i.e. age, household income brackets, total household members); suggested the Board work to provide more transparency and consideration for the citizens.
- Tim Williams: Noted that much time and effort has been put into the FY20 proposed budget; feels that the population in the locality has remained flat for the past ten (10) years; provided stats on population percentages (i.e. school age on up), proposed tax revenue based on population; lack of major business vs. effect on household salaries; feels the proposed tax increase will help promote farms and agri-tourism here. Mr. Williams asked that his presentation (below) be included in the record.



▣ 2011	\$.0050
▣ 2012	\$.0053
▣ 2013	\$.0067
▣ 2014-2018	\$.0068

▣ Age 10-19	13%
▣ Age 60-69	15%
▣ Age 70-79	8%

Proposed Budget Real Estate Tax and Salary Increase Compared to Key Indicators:



Proposed Savings : \$2,554,982

GF-Vehicle Replacement	\$184,533
GF-Ambulance	\$229,000
Commonwealth Attorney	\$285,200
EMS	\$351,071
Contingency Fund	\$875,433
Health Insurance	\$ 45,933
School Instr. Gen. op	\$583,812

- Kim Smith: Referred to a statement by the County Administrator that 'it's only the beginning' with regard to the proposed budgetary and tax increases, and has been repeated at several meeting sessions; feels the primary reason in the 'manner of management over the past many years' long before now; feels that the County history of 'kicking the can down the road, focused on government workers, and ignoring the primary causes isn't at all an adequate way of managing things; feels the County needs people that are focused on the well-being of all residents, and deals with problems during their infancy rather than waiting until issues are extreme and more expensive to resolve; questioned: 1) why the state ranks Madison at the top for drug overdoses (per capita) over all surrounding localities; 2) if above stats are caused by 'is or isn't' being taught here; 3) why is the DSS budget controlled under the County's budget when they are a separate entity; 4) there are several noted cases of child abuse and domestic violence in the County then other jurisdictions with a much greater population than Madison; 5) asked if there are plans to incorporate new business in the County's planning stage; 6) referred to issues with the County being charged for healthcare costs for inmates at the Central Virginia Regional Jail; 7) referred to local demographics and the fact that youth aren't being educated and that most don't remain here; 8) drug overdose of our youth; 9) what is the implication for the future costs for EMS services here; referred to the need for more tax efficiency and the need to be more proactive.
- Linda Vegan: Referred to the proposed tax rate increased and how this will affect people on fixed income; noted that the proposed FY20 budget shows funding for departmental overtime, paid leave, and many things that could probably be streamlined to ward off a real estate tax increase for the citizens; noted that the reassessment yielded a significant increase in her property, although her neighbor's property was valued at least three percent (3%) from the last assessment process; encouraged the County to consider lowering the overall proposed budget.
- Carl Kerby: Feels that the Board of Supervisors is doing a tremendous job; reference was also made to space usage; noted that the locality doesn't reassess property very often and that some localities reassess property values annually accolades to the Board of Supervisor for making some very tough choices; referred to the fact that some school/county employees work a second job in order to afford their rent payments; feels it's time for the county to modernize its technology and provide support in order to attract business here; feels that folks will come with the expectation of a certain level of services (i.e. technological, communications, etc.).
- Joe May: Referred to comments that pertained to why 'we don't have business in this county' and why the rest of us will be charged to pay for it.
- Leri Thomas: Addressed the fact that: 1) One Supervisor is absent tonight; 2) she has never formally met the County Administrator; however, 'red flags' go up when it's advised that there are delays and no

answers regarding budgetary matters. She feels if there are delays due to there being no answers, perhaps decisions need to be delayed as well; additional concerns were verbalized due to statements made about the 'recession' and the need for 'the county to catch up', which she noted that the County residents have a lot of catching up to do as well - many local seniors still work because they have catching up to do; referred to having attended a past meeting that focused on the transient occupancy tax, and referred to her mindset on this issue (i.e. regarding homesteading and agribusiness lodging) - advised that those who provide lodging bring people into the County and keep them here, and send them to places of interest to meet their needs during their stay here; suggested the County focus on 'friendly business' tactics; referred to other landlords (rent their houses to addicts; allow junk to remain in the backyard; send their kids to school) whose property(ies) aren't taxed; referred to past comments that the Board didn't want the sewer system to be expanded because it would expand development here, which she feels hearkens to those that never assess what they can do without in order to be more efficient rather than just doing whatever they want to do; also noted that the boundaries to her property on the County's GIS are off and some folks have had difficulty finding her rental property; feels there are ways to make things grow in a productive manner; the county needs to assess ways to generate revenue here.

- Nick McDowell: Referred to a past emergency in which the volunteer rescue squad failed to respond because of a lack of available volunteers on hand; feels that paid EMS provides exceptional service in this locality; noted that the Sheriff's Office provide services that many aren't aware of (i.e. security checks and special visits to seniors, knowledgeable about the local drug problems), etc.); noted that the budget is about goals with the idea to establish priorities/goals that truly serve the locality; change doesn't come overnight, but he feels that 'the glass is half full.'
- Carty Yowell: Feels that the budgetary process was the 'perfect storm' (in regards to the proposed real estate tax increase); local taxes haven't been raised for many years here; many items need to be funded; encouraged new business in the locality; accolades to the Board for approval of a site plan for Mr. Weiland (property along Rt. 29), for the Shenandoah Hills Campground, and for approving the Resort Ordinance for Madison County; feels the Board is more 'business friendly'; referred to the recent approval of the Comprehensive Plan for Madison County which contains ideas on how to attract and retain the right type of business within the County.

With no further comments being brought forth, the public hearing on the real estate tax rate was closed.

c. Public Hearing: FY20 Budget: Chairman Jackson opened the floor of the public hearing on the FY20 Budget.

The following individuals provided comments:

- Eleanor Montgomery: Questioned the three percent (3%) increase in pay for County employees.
- **An unidentified individual** verbalized concern about line items for: 1) vehicle replacement for the Sheriff's Department; referred to budgetary criteria regarding technology and the increase for various departments (i.e. Commonwealth Attorney, EMS, etc.); proposed increase in health insurance; and school construction project.
- **An unidentified individual** asked about revenue that came into the County (timber sales).
- Joe May: Referred to the past department of forestry project and that (in his opinion) a former BOS Chair was more in favor of having a golf course here; also referred to proposed healthcare costs (38%); suggested the County Administrator have discussions with the surrounding localities to assess what problems (if any) that are experienced elsewhere and whether a solution can be attained.

- Bruce Brown: Advised that folks aren't speaking into the microphone which makes it hard for those with hearing impairments to assess what's being said.
- Bonita Burr: Spoke of behalf of the Madison County Library. Accolades to the Madison County Board of Supervisors for providing funding support to the local library.
- Leri Thomas: Referred to a bill that's being discussed in Congress and if this process will aide in getting better internet services within the County.

With no further comments being brought forth, the public hearing on the FY20 budget was closed.

d. Public Hearing: FY20 Administrative Fees: Chairman Jackson opened the floor of the public hearing on the FY20 Administrative Fees.

The following individual(s) provided comments:

- Carty Yowell: Advised that fees associated with planning items were provided after being compared with associated fees being charged in the neighboring localities.

With no further comments being made, the public hearing on the FY20 administrative fees was closed.

6. Board Discussion on Planned May 14th Budget Adoption:

Comments from the Board:

- *Supervisor McGhee: Verbalized concerns with the citizen's frustration pertaining to 'transparency', but noted that the County 'doesn't know' what type of funding mandates or unforeseen expensed will be present in the upcoming year; feels that the County must work to continue to work towards improving technology services, and continue to promote the health and safety of the citizens; noted that the proposed increase in healthcare costs is frustrating; noted that items were appraised a bit differently during the current reassessment process than what has been done in past years.*
- Leri Thomas: Feels that if better technology isn't synchronized throughout the locality, all efforts for improvement will be a waste; suggested that the County place a limit on what's needed here with regard to EMS services and better jobs, etc.
- Brian Daniel, Commissioner, was present and advised that the methodology utilized in the current reassessment process was done a bit differently than from the process utilized during the past two County reassessments (done by different appraisal companies) which yielded very different overall results.
- *Supervisor Foster: Advised that the Board didn't rush through the proposed budget and held several meetings to discuss the budgetary process; noted that the citizens do have the right to question 'why' things are being done - the Board is charged with providing explanations of all decisions being made; thanked all for attending tonight's public hearing, and noted that all budgetary concerns verbalized tonight will not be taken lightly.*
- *Supervisor Hoffman: Advised that all of her property values increased as a result of the reassessment process; noted that the Board has worked diligently on the proposed budget - no concerns/issues were taken lighting during the budgetary process; noted that the proposed radio system is sorely needed in order to provide consistent communication for emergency and law enforcement personnel, and to promote the health and safety of the citizens; noted that Air B&B properties provide a viable asset to visitors to the county, but are noted as being a 'business'; advised that many funding requests were decreased or denied during the budget*

process; encouraged citizens to contact any Board member if there are ever any concerns; verbalized favor of promoting business in the County; provided accolades to the County Administrator and Finance Director for all of their input during the budget process; thanked all for attending tonight's public hearing session.

- *Chairman Jackson: Referenced the fact that county real estate taxes have only increased by one cent during his tenure on the Board, although some citizens have suggested that an increase of at least one cent be initiated each year (feels this would be overtaxing property owners); referred to the increase in health care costs - efforts are being done to work with County agencies (i.e. schools, DSS) and alternative insurance companies to assess cost savings and possibly an alternative that will provide the same level of coverage to employees; referred to the fact that technology has been deferred in the County for many years, but must be improved in order to promote efficiency in the County (i.e. consultant has been hired to provide assistance in this area) and to provide IT infrastructure here; noted that county and school facilities have been neglected for many years and improvements are greatly needed; expressed appreciation to those citizens that offer support in the area of public safety; advised that a new radio system is greatly needed to enhance communications for emergency services and law enforcement, and to promote the safety and well-being of the citizens - county staff members are working to research alternative funding mechanisms (i.e. state/federal grant monies) to help defray some of these costs; referred to the need for the County to initiate a new contract at the transfer station; noted that the local library is receiving funding in accordance with state funding formulas; funding is also necessary for the purchase of replacement vehicles for local law enforcement; provided accolades to the County Administrator and Finance Director for their input throughout the budget process, and to the Madison County Planning Commission for all of their efforts; thanked the public for attending tonight and providing input on the FY20 budget for Madison County.*
- *Carty Yowell: Advised of today being "Give Local Piedmont Day" - \$677,277.00 has been raised between the registered non-profit organizations located in Fauquier, Rappahannock, Culpeper and Madison.*

7. Public Comment:

Chairman Jackson opened the floor for public comment. The following individual(s) provided comment(s);

- *Leri Thomas: Questioned if the County has ever considered hiring a grant writer; also noted that the County's population hasn't changed significantly since she moved here, and questioned why more governmental staff is needed to manage operations.*
- *Chairman Jackson: Noted that the Madison County Planning Commission has recommended that a County Planner be hired in lieu of the recent retirement of Betty Grayson, Zoning Administrator.*
- *Linda Vegan: Noted that in the past, the landfill had County staff in place which imposed a savings; feels that contracting work out sometimes creates more cost in the long run.*
- ***Margaret Graham:** Thanked the Board for listening to all comments made tonight by the citizens during tonight's session.*

With no further comments being brought forth, Chairman Jackson closed the public comment opportunity.

8. Adjournment:

Supervisor Hoffman moved to adjourn, seconded by Supervisor Foster. *Aye: Jackson, Foster, McGhee, Hoffman. Nay: (0). Absent: Weakley.*

R. Clay Jackson, Chairman
Madison County Board of Supervisors

Clerk of the Board of the Madison County Board of Supervisors

Adopted on: May 14, 2019

Copies: Board of Supervisors, County Attorney & Constitutional Officers



<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Agenda</u> <u>Special Meeting</u> <u>Madison County Board of Supervisors</u> <u>Tuesday, May 7, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.</u> <u>County Administration Building Auditorium</u> <u>414 N. Main Street, Madison, VA 22727</u></p>
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- 1. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance & Moment of Silence**
- 2. Determine Presence of a Quorum / Adopt Agenda**
- 3. Public Comment**
- 4. FY20 Budget**
 - a. Presentation: FY 20 BudgetCounty Administrator Hobbs*
 - A. Public Hearing: FY20 Real Estate Tax Rate*
 - B. Public Hearing: FY20 Budget*
 - C. Public Hearing: FY20 Administrative Fees*
- 5. Board Discussion on Planned May 14 Budget Adoption**
- 6. Public Comment**
- 7. Adjourn**